1	2	3	4	5
(ii)	Death Rate (per 1000 population)	22.8	15.0	9.0* (SRS 1995)
(iii)	Total Fertility Rate	5.97	4.5	3.5 (SRS : 1993)
(Iv)	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	146	110	74 (SRS 1995)
(v)	Couple Protection Rate (percent)	N.A.	22.8	46.5* (P.D. 1996)
(vi)	Cumulative Number of births averted (in million)	0.04	44.19	197.39* (P.D. 1996

* : Figures are provisional.
N.A. : Not Available
P.D. : Programme Data

[English]

Private Sector in National Waterways

1440. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of national waterways which are proposed to be used for river transport;

(b) whether private sector will be involved in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to invite tenders on Build, Operate and Transfer basis?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The details of National Waterways which are open for river transport are given below :

(i) *National Waterway No. 1 (1620 kms.)*

The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system connecting Haldia-Calcutta-Farakka-Semaria-Patna-Varanasi and Allahabad was declared as National Waterway in the year 1986.

(ii) *National Waterway No. II (891 kms.)*

The Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri-Tezpur-Guwahati-Dibrugarh and Sadiya, was declared as National Waterway in the year 1988.

(iii) *National Waterway No. III (205 kms.)*

West Coast Canal system stretching from Kottapuram to Kollam (168 kms.) alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms.) and Udyogmandal canal (23 kms.) was declared as National Waterway in the year 1993.

(b) and (c). As per policy of the Government, the Private Sector may be involved in the development of infrastructure facilities and the scheme is being finalised.

Maintenance of N.H.-47, Tamil Nadu

1441. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to maintain the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway No. - 47 in Traffic worthy condition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Development and Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and they are kept in traffic worthy condition within the available funds. In the 8th Five Year Plan, 5 number of improvement works amounting to Rs. 194.67 lakhs have been sanctioned so far for the improvement of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari section of National Highway No. 47 and the same are in different stages of progress.

Silt in Reservoirs

1442. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that huge quantity of silt has accumulated in the reservoirs situated in various parts of the country, especially the tribal and backward areas of Gujarat thereby affecting the water storage capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of financial assistance made available to Gujarat during the last three years till today;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government to prevent